



Dear Fellow Arkansan,

Today, I was proud to introduce a [bipartisan resolution to honor the lasting legacy of gospel music in the U.S.](#) and around the world. My resolution designates September 2010 as Gospel Music Heritage Month, to commemorate the rich heritage of gospel music and gospel music artists. I have sponsored the legislation each year since it began in 2008.

As a farmer's daughter from Helena, Arkansas, who grew up in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, I've been surrounded by the unique traditions of gospel music all my life. I appreciate its importance to the faith community in our state.

To help support the resolution, today I also submitted comments for the Congressional Record:

**TO RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER AS "GOSPEL MUSIC HERITAGE MONTH"**

"M. President, I am proud to introduce this bipartisan resolution in the U.S. Senate along with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison designating September as "Gospel Music Heritage Month," to honor the lasting legacy of gospel music in the U.S. and around the world.

"My state of Arkansas has served as home and inspiration to countless musical styles and influences, including gospel music.

"As a farmer's daughter from Helena, Arkansas, who grew up in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, I've been surrounded by the unique traditions of gospel music all my life and am appreciative of its importance to the faith community in my state.

"With its roots in African-American culture, gospel music has grown beyond the church walls and is now firmly rooted in the American music tradition.

"Gospel music is a beloved art form of our country and has spread beyond geographic origins in the United States to touch audiences around the world. It is a testament to the universal appeal of gospel music, which both inspires and entertains across racial, ethnic, religious, and geographical boundaries.

"In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to shining the spotlight on gospel music so that our children and students – and all Americans – can understand the full impact it has made on our great nation.

"In closing, I would like to thank Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee for her leadership on this effort and for her tireless work in the U.S. House of Representative to designate September as Gospel Music Heritage Month.

"Gospel music is an integral part of our nation's history and heritage. Along with all Arkansans and all Americans, I celebrate gospel music as an art form that brings a message of hope and

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geopolitical as an art form that brings a message of hope and inspiration to all people.

"I now yield my time."

As always, please feel free to [contact me](#) with your comments, suggestions and concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

With Arkansas Pride,



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